

# ***Cervical vagus nerve morphometry and vascularity in the context of nerve stimulation - A cadaveric study***

Niels Hammer <sup>1\*</sup>, Sabine Löffler <sup>2</sup>, Yusuf Cakmak <sup>1</sup>, Benjamin Ondruschka <sup>3</sup>, Uwe Planitzer <sup>4</sup>, Michael Schultz <sup>5,6</sup>, Dirk Winkler <sup>4</sup>, David Weise <sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Anatomy, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

<sup>2</sup> Department of Anatomy, University of Leipzig, Germany

<sup>3</sup> Institute of Legal Medicine, University of Leipzig, Germany

<sup>4</sup> Department of Neurosurgery, University of Leipzig, Germany

<sup>5</sup> Department of Medicine, Dunedin School of Medicine, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

<sup>6</sup> Gastroenterology Unit, Southern District Health Board, Dunedin Hospital, Dunedin, New Zealand

<sup>7</sup> Department of Neurology, University of Leipzig, Germany

## **Corresponding author**

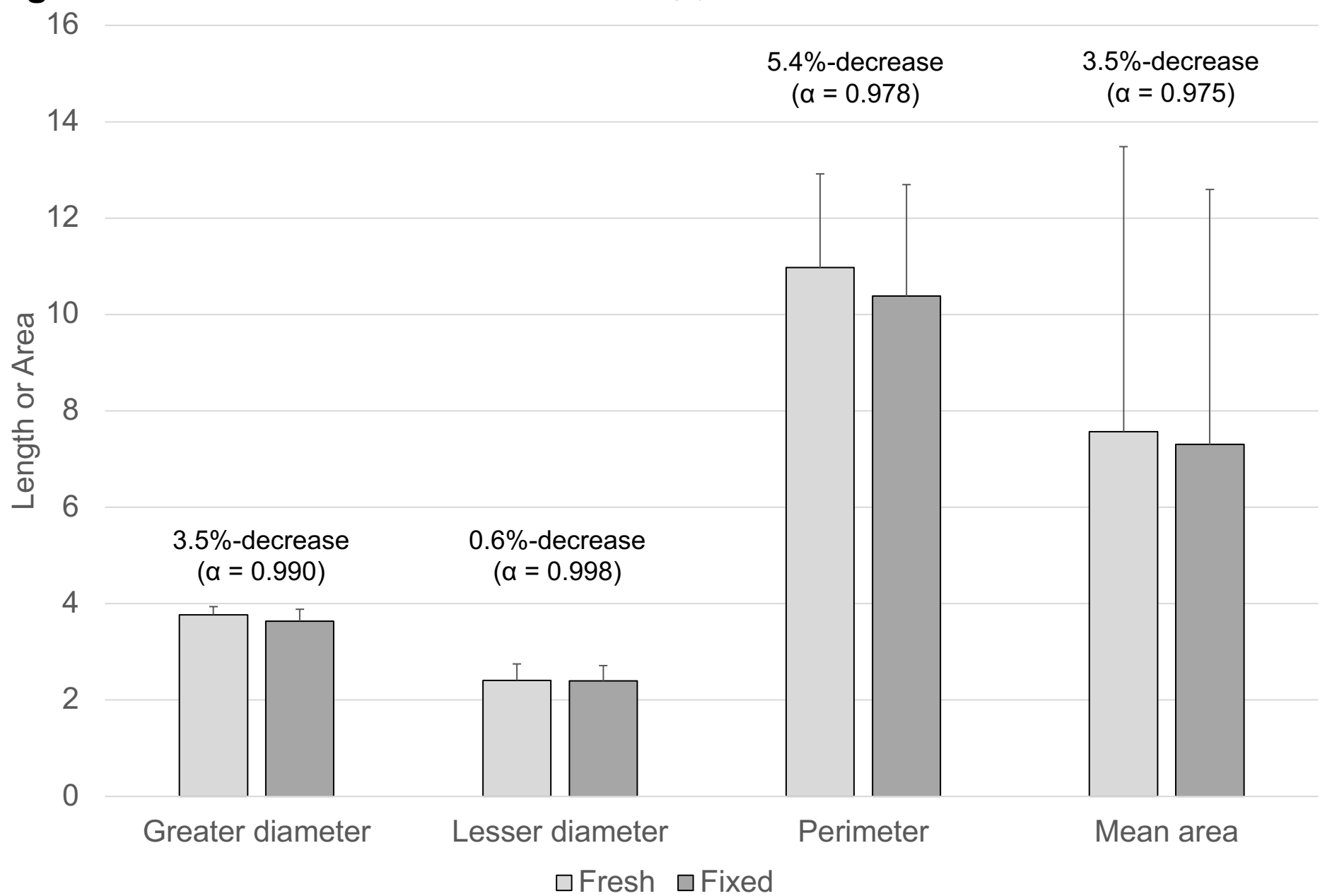
Niels Hammer, M.D., Dr. habil., Department of Anatomy, University of Otago, Lindo Ferguson Building, 270 Great King St, Dunedin 9016, New Zealand; Phone: +64 3 479 7362, Fax: +64 3 479 7254

Email: nlshammer@googlemail.com

## **Key words**

anatomical landmark, carotid sheath, cervical vagus nerve, electrical stimulation, epilepsy, nerve morphometry, surface topography, vagus nerve stimulation

**Supplement figure 1**      Change in cervical vagus nerve cross section induced by ethanol-glycerin fixation



Supplement table 1

n=51	Age	Sex	Side	Branching	Greater diameter	Lesser diameter	Cross-sectional area	Skin distance	Midline distance
	[years]				[mm]	[mm]	[mm <sup>2</sup> ]	[mm]	[mm]
All	88.1 ± 6.6				5.1 ± 1.5	4.1 ± 1.3	7.2 ± 3.1	36.2 ± 9.5	34.5 ± 6.2
Maximum	103				10.2	7.3	17.4	60.0	51.0
Minimum	73				3.4	2.0	3.2	18.0	21.0
Females	88.4 ± 6.9	16			4.8 ± 1.4	3.9 ± 1.1	6.6 ± 2.6	36.5 ± 10.1	34.1 ± 6.4
Males	87.6 ± 5.8	11			5.6 ± 1.6	4.4 ± 1.6	8.1 ± 3.3	35.9 ± 8.2	35.0 ± 5.7
Left	88.0 ± 6.6		26		5.2 ± 1.7	4.0 ± 1.4	7.3 ± 3.6	36.8 ± 8.5	34.2 ± 6.1
Right	88.1 ± 6.3		25		5.0 ± 1.3	4.2 ± 1.1	7.2 ± 2.4	35.6 ± 10.1	34.8 ± 6.2
No branching	89.0 ± 5.9			44	5.3 ± 1.6	4.2 ± 1.3	7.5 ± 3.1	36.1 ± 9.3	35.0 ± 6.0
Branching	86.5 ± 7.2			7	4.1 ± 0.4	3.4 ± 0.8	5.4 ± 1.3	36.7 ± 9.5	31.6 ± 6.4
95-percentile					7.5	6.4	11.6	51.1	45.5
90-percentile					7.0	5.8	11.0	49.0	41.0
67-percentile					4.5	4.3	7.0	38.8	36.0
50-percentile					4.8	3.8	6.5	36.0	35.0

Supplement table 2

n=51	Age	Number Fascicles	Exter- nal vessel	Subepineural vessels			Subperineural vessels		
				Number	Minimum diameter [μm]	Maximum diameter [μm]	Number	Minimum diameter [μm]	Maximum diameter [μm]
	[years]								
All	88.1 ± 6.6	5.2 ± 3.5		8.7 ± 6.4 <sup>†</sup>	30.5 ± 12.9 <sup>¶</sup>	105.2 ± 55.2 <sup>¢</sup>	6.9 ± 7.3 <sup>†</sup>	16.2 ± 11.8 <sup>¶</sup>	31.5 ± 25.0 <sup>¢</sup>
Maximum	103	21.0		31.0	70.0	350.0	34.0	75.0	148.0
Minimum	73	1.0		0.1	12.0	29.0	1.0	7.0	11.0
Females	88.4 ± 6.9	4.2 ± 2.1		7.5 ± 4.8	32.2 ± 14.0	92.8 ± 37.5	6.9 ± 7.5	17.2 ± 13.7	31.1 ± 27.6 <sup>*</sup>
Males	87.6 ± 5.8	6.6 ± 4.4		10.4 ± 7.8	27.7 ± 9.7	125.8 ± 70.0	7.0 ± 6.7	14.8 ± 7.2	32.0 ± 19.7 <sup>*</sup>
Left	88.0 ± 6.6	5.1 ± 4.1		8.5 ± 7.1	32.4 ± 14.8	102.3 ± 37.0	5.6 ± 4.0	18.4 ± 14.2	40.0 ± 29.9 <sup>+</sup>
Right	88.1 ± 6.3	5.2 ± 2.6		8.8 ± 5.4	28.7 ± 10.0	108.1 ± 67.1	8.3 ± 9.2	14.0 ± 7.7	22.9 ± 13.4 <sup>+</sup>
No branching	89.0 ± 5.9	5.5 ± 3.6		8.9 ± 6.7	31.6 ± 13.0	110.0 ± 56.8	7.0 ± 7.6	16.3 ± 12.2	32.6 ± 26.4
Branching	86.5 ± 7.2	3.2 ± 1.1		6.8 ± 2.1	23.5 ± 7.2	74.5 ± 17.7	6.5 ± 4.6	15.8 ± 7.5	24.8 ± 5.5
External vessel yes	88.2 ± 6.7	4.7 ± 2.6	25	7.5 ± 5.1	35.0 ± 11.1 <sup>#</sup>	110.1 ± 63.1	7.9 ± 7.6	18.2 ± 15.4	38.5 ± 31.2
External vessel no	88.1 ± 5.9	5.6 ± 4.0	26	9.8 ± 7.1	26.2 ± 12.6 <sup>#</sup>	100.6 ± 44.6	6.1 ± 6.8	14.6 ± 6.6	25.7 ± 15.3